

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES

7:00 p.m., Monday, August 9, 2010

Public Safety Building, 401 E. Third Street, Newberg, OR

“Mission Statement: To give the citizens of Newberg a forum to voice traffic safety concerns, evaluate related issues, provide a liaison with the City and promote traffic safety within the community.”

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Members

Present:	Doris Brandt	Dianna Cotter (arrived at 7:02 PM)	Ron Johns
	Neal Klein	James Oravetz	Ronald Sult
	Lesley Woodruff		

Staff

Present: Brian Casey, Police Chief (arrived at 8:16 PM) Mary Newell, Support Services Manager
Jennifer Nelson, Recording Secretary

Staff

Absent: Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer

Ex Officio

Present: Mayor Bob Andrews

Others

Present: Daniel L. Brown, Craig Ewing, Laurie Hunter, Joanie Feliciano, Janell Almquist, James R. Weise, Mark Kosler, and Ryan Howard

MAYOR BOB ANDREWS CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:01 PM.

- A) Nomination & election of Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission to fill vacancy resulting from resignation of Acting Chairperson Jen Dawson and Chairperson Michael Simpson.

MOTION #1: Brandt/Cotter to nominate Commissioner Neil Klein for Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission.

MOTION #2: Sult/ to nominate Commissioner Lesley Woodruff for Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission.

VOTE #1: To elect either Commissioner Neil Klein or Commissioner Lesley Woodruff as Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission.

Neal Klein (6 Yes/1 No[Sult]/2 Vacant)
Lesley Woodruff (1 Yes[Sult]/6 No/2 Vacant)

Mr. Neal Klein was elected as Chairperson for the Traffic Safety Commission.

B) Nomination & election of Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission to fill vacancy.

MOTION #3: Oravetz/Sult to nominate Commissioner Lesley Woodruff for Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission.

VOTE #3: To elect Commissioner Lesley Woodruff as Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission.
(7 Yes/0 No/2 Vacant) Motion carried.

C) Review and approve minutes of May 10, 2010.

MOTION #4: Woodruff/Johns to approve the Traffic Safety Commission Minutes for May 10, 2010 as amended. (7 Yes/0 No/2 Vacant) Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Daniel L. Brown stated he was an eleven year resident at Creekside Lane and came here this evening with several of his neighbors after sending an email and photographs to Sergeant Tim Weaver and Ms. Mary Newell. Their desire is to have a stop order issued on the stop sign installation at the intersection of Creekside Lane and Emma Lane. He cited three reasons for this request: the speed down Emma Lane and wide turn onto Creekside Lane in a high density neighborhood, a blind corner at westbound Emma Ln. and northbound Creekside Ln. caused by a six foot fence and cars that park up to and even in the intersection, and if the stop sign were moved to Emma Ln. then it would create a parking buffer so people cannot park there and help some of the visual obstruction. The current proposed placement will not solve the problem. He stated that proper notice was given and received by all, but they did not attend the meeting because they thought it was just a simple matter of installing a stop sign; only later did they realize where it would be placed and that the removal of a mature tree was required to install it. Because of their desire to not see the tree removed, they request the matter be revisited.

Commissioner Dianna Cotter wished to clarify his reasons for requesting the stop order were for the safety of neighborhood and opposition to the removal of the tree and intended placement of the stop sign. Mr. Brown agreed.

Commissioner Ron Johns asked if the intended placement of the stop sign is a safe place other than for the removal of the tree. Mr. Brown felt the sign would be placed too far back and spoke of the nature of the intersection being odd, placing the sign set back from where a stop sign would normally be. He felt the priority should be for stopping drivers was on Emma Ln. instead.

Commissioner Cotter asked if this opinion was based on his observation of traffic and that most of the speeding is occurring along the long straightaway on Emma Ln. and if the same problem exists on Creekside Ln. Mr. Brown said it was based on what he has observed and he does not see the same issue on Creekside Ln.

Commissioner James Oravetz asked if the intersection had blind spots going either way. Mr. Brown said it does but when a driver is on the southbound lane of Creekside Ln. they can see what is coming around the corner if they are going a reasonable speed. They discussed large vehicles being parked on the corner causing the vision problems.

Mr. Craig Ewing stated he initiated the request for the stop sign installation and inquired with staff about why there was not one in place after a driver hit a pole in the area. He supports looking at this item again to ensure the sign is installed in the most appropriate place. He felt the retaining wall there created more of a vision block than the fence on top of it. He said if the sign is installed where the tree is then it would be eight (8) feet before the corner, which is too far back to be a real solution.

Chair Neal Klein spoke of when this item came before the commission previously and the fact there was not a house built there yet which created a false sense that the road continued. He asked if the house being built did not help solve this problem. Mr. Ewing replied it did not, there is actually a knoll on Emma Ln. that goes up and drivers come over too quickly to notice the dead end as they come down.

Chair Klein postponed the item to the September agenda for further staff review and reconsideration.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Concern regarding lack of stop signs in the vicinity of Edwards Elementary School
TIME – 7:29 PM

Ms. Mary Newell, Support Services Manager, stated this was placed on the agenda because the topic comes up every so often and suggested it could be assigned to staff for consideration.

Chair Klein suggested absent staff member, Mr. Paul Chiu, prepare as report for either the September or October agenda. Ms. Newell added a traffic study will need to be conducted again which would be best to do after the school year begins.

Vice-Chair Lesley Woodruff stated the letter received was very vague and suggested contacting the writer to see if they have specific intersections they would like to see have stop signs installed. Ms. Newell said this is something Mr. Chiu would do.

B) TSC-10-010_Speed Concern on Sitka-N of 99W
TIME – 7:32 PM

Chair Klein asked if there was a report from staff. Ms. Newell replied there should be information in their packet, but there were people here to speak on the matter.

Mr. James Weise stated he was here with his neighbor Mr. Mark Kosler and they have been observing traffic on Sitka Avenue particularly by the YMCA Child Development Center. He spoke of young drivers coming out of the apartment complex doing “cookies” and racing off towards 99W by the intersection at J’s Restaurant. There had been a speed trailer placed in the area closer to J’s Restaurant back in June, but it was not picking up what he felt were accurate speeds. He wished to see one placed there again in September because when the school year begins traffic is heavier and speeds more excessive during peak times before and after school. He also recommended placing the speed trailer further north on Sitka Ave. and closer to the YMCA Center which will pick up drivers from the cross street of Oak Street instead of from the YMCA. He also wondered when the Yamhill County Transit System placed a route going southbound on Sitka Ave. and asked if that could be re-routed to Elliot Road and then to 99W because of the frequency of the bus trips and heavier traffic getting on 99W is easy at the stop light.

Ms. Newell asked if he wanted another traffic study to be conducted or just to have a speed trailer placed there. Mr. Weise said if the speed trailer did not have an actual camera in it then he would like another study completed.

Mayor Bob Andrews asked if he believed more speeding occurred going northbound or southbound and if there is a big difference when school is in session compared to when it is not. Mr. Weise said it was split but maybe more going south and there was a big difference when school is in with increased speeders because high school students use the road as a thoroughfare. Mayor Andrews noted the previous study had been conducted in July which was not during school hours and asked why he recommended changing the Yamhill County Transit bus route. Mr. Weise said the larger vehicles were passing through on a road that is not wide enough with lots of parked cars and kids with bicycles; his fear is for children getting hit by the buses and their frequent trips on that road.

Chair Klein spoke of the study in July and noted the times of heaviest traffic was still between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The daycare center is open year round from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. He agreed it would be a good idea to wait until school begins to have another study, but said it may be a month or two before they can get the data. Maybe by the September or October meeting they will have a better time frame as to when the study can be conducted.

C) Discussion regarding potential ACTS Oregon Traffic Safety Grants

TIME – 7:46 PM

Vice-Chair Woodruff spoke of potential ACTS Oregon Traffic Safety Grants and that they are looking for grants with an educational component, particularly with adults. She spoke briefly on the recent Bikes and Books Rodeo event with the Library that was funded by one of these grants.

Ms. Newell stated the deadline is September 10, 2010, for applications for the bicycle safety mini-grant or the building safer communities mini-grant program. She suggested brainstorming now because there would not be another meeting before the deadline and the grant would need the backing of the Traffic Safety Commission. In the past these grants have helped purchase part of the radar trailers and as they are old, replacing them might be nice.

Commissioner Cotter suggested educating parents on proper installation of child restraints.

Mayor Andrews suggested asking one of more of the area churches to be a host or to help coordinate an event throughout their neighborhoods.

Councilor Ryan Howard said he would be interested and willing to help write a grant for information sessions on best practices and safety for bicyclists.

It was determined the commission would support Councilor Howard and a grant submission for bicycle safety; they delegated by voice the approval of the application to Chair Klein on their behalf.

OLD BUSINESS

A) TSC-10-009: Intersection of River and 6th Street

TIME – 7:58 PM

Ms. Newell reported there had been a request for placards to be placed on signs, but staff does not recommend this and there were no records requests for this.

Chair Klein tabled the item and could do nothing at this time.

Discussions followed about the speaker at the ACTS Convention in October and encouraging members to attend, advertising for a student commissioner again with the start of the new school year, timelines for soliciting for the two vacant positions after October, work session discussions with the City Attorney concerning interview procedures, and the appeal to the City Council regarding the decision to eliminate parking on Chehalem that was causing problems for Newberg Garbage and Recycling Services.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police Update

Police Chief Brian Casey announced that he would be replacing Sergeant Tim Weaver as the police department staff representative and looked forward to improving the community through this commission.

B) Engineering update

None.

C) Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Oravetz spoke about his concerns for the street closure for Tunes on Tuesday creating a bottleneck situation on Sherman Street at School Street. He felt the next permit given to them should only allow half of the intersection to be closed so drivers coming down that road can make the right turn onto School Street without having to turn around.

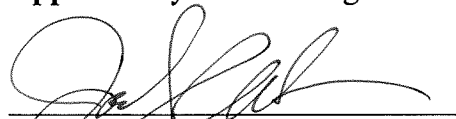
Chief Casey said he will watch out for this, but he also thought the City Attorney had plans to rewrite this procedure for street closure permits.

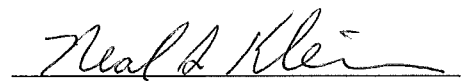
Chair Klein asked if the City Attorney would be available at the next month's work session to review this item.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM until September 13, 2010.

Approved by the Newberg Traffic Safety Commission this 13th day of September, 2010.


Jennifer L. Nelson
Recording Secretary


Neal S. Klein
Traffic Safety Commission Chair